

REMARKS

I. Status Of The Claims

Claims 1-17 are pending in this Application.

Claims 3-5 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Okita
(U.S. Patent No. 6,538,721).

With this response claim 1 is amended.

II. Amendment to Claim 1

Further to the Amendment filed January 7, 2005, with this submission the
Applicant further amends claim 1.

No new matter has been added.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant respectfully submits that this Application is in condition for
allowance for which action is earnestly solicited.

If a telephone conference would facilitate prosecution of this Application in any
way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required
for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500,

Order No. 1232-5145. **A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.**

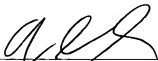
Furthermore, in the event that an extension of time is required, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the above-noted Deposit Account and Order No.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 12, 2005

By:



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